

1. An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet and an absorbent core positioned between the topsheet and the backsheet, and having leakage-preventing side walls on a liquid-receiving side of the article, the leakage-preventing side walls extending in a longitudinal direction of the article and lying opposite one another in a width direction of the article, wherein

at least a liquid-receiving face of each leakage-preventing side wall is made of a fibrous sheet that contains hydrophobic fibers thermally bonded to one another and hydrophilic fibers shorter than the hydrophobic fibers, and at least a part of the hydrophilic fibers form aggregates which are dispersed in the fibrous sheet and are bonded to the hydrophobic fibers.

2. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic fiber aggregates are, when the fibrous sheet comprises an outer layer and an inner layer in section with respect to the thickness thereof, not in the outer layer but are only in the inner layer.

3. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 2, wherein the basis weight of the fibrous sheet falls between 20 and 60 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and the basis weight of the outer layer of the fibrous

sheet falls between 5 and 15 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

4. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fibrous sheet has a plurality of apertures formed therein.

5. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fibrous sheet is folded back at the top of the side wall, and a liquid-absorbent layer is disposed between the confronting faces of the thus-folded fibrous sheet.

6. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fiber density of the hydrophilic fiber aggregates is higher than the fiber density of a portion of the fibrous sheet not containing the aggregates therein.

7. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 6, wherein the fiber density of the hydrophilic fiber aggregates falls between 1.5 and 3 times the fiber density of the portion of the fibrous sheet not containing the aggregates therein.

8. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic fibers have a length of from 38 to 64 mm, and the hydrophilic fibers have a length of from 5 to 25 mm.

9. The absorbent article as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the fibrous sheet contains from 70 to 98 % by weight of hydrophobic fibers and from 2 to 30 % by weight of hydrophilic fibers.

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